

18th August 1925]

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) The annual administration reports of the district boards for the five years ending 1923-24 show that the following roads were constructed during those years:—

1919-20—Paramakudi-Mudukulathur road—2nd and 3rd sections.

Ramnad-Kilakarai road—3 sections.

Sivakasi-Virudupatti road—1st section.

Total length—9 miles.

1920-21—Ramnad-Kilakarai road— $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Other roads— $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

1921-22—Nil.

1922-23—5 miles.

1923-24— $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The Government have no further information.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"With reference to clauses (a) and (b), will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The hon. Member may have the information from the Board direct."

Election to the 24th ward of the Kumbakonam Municipal Council.

* 34 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Chairman of the Kumbakonam municipality received a communication on the night of the 19th December 1923 from one of the duly nominated candidates for election to the 24th ward of the local Municipal Council;

(b) whether the said candidate made any statement in the communication referred to in (a) that he had not withdrawn his candidature for the said ward;

(c) whether his request to the Chairman in the communication referred to in (a) to refrain from making any declaration till at least the day after the next was ever considered by the Chairman, and if so, whether any reply was given by the Chairman officially to the letter in question;

(d) if no reply was sent, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the candidate addressed another letter to the Chairman on 20th December 1923 stating that the withdrawal of his candidature was a fraudulent and forged one and requesting the Chairman to investigate the matter;

(f) what action the Chairman took on the letter referred to in (e) and, if no action was taken, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Government are aware of the fact that the candidate in question made a request to the Chairman in his letter of the 20th December 1923 soliciting Government investigation in the matter through a trained and capable officer and not to declare anybody elected for the said ward until the result of the investigation was known;

(h) if so, whether Government received any communication on the matter from the Chairman; and

(i) if the answer to (h) be in the affirmative, whether the Government can place on the table a copy of the communication received from the Chairman and the former's reply thereto?

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- A.—(a), (b) & (e) The Government are so informed.
 (c) & (f) The Government have no information.
 (d) The question does not arise.
 (g) The answer is in the affirmative.
 (h) The Chairman reported the facts to Government but asked for no orders.
 (i) The Government see no need to do so.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Answer to clause (h) says ‘The Chairman reported the facts to Government but asked for no orders’. Considering the importance of the matter, is it not within the power of the hon. the Minister to give guidance to the Chairman, though it is not asked for?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“The Government did not consider necessary to give guidance.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Here is a forged document stating that a candidate has withdrawn his candidature, while the candidate says that he has not withdrawn and the whole election is vitiated. The man cannot get any remedy ; the civil courts up to the High Court have declined to interfere and yet am I to understand that the hon. the Minister does not think that he can usefully interfere in the matter?”

The teaching of Hindi language in Nannilam Board High School.

* 35 Q.—**Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR :** Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a mahazar signed by the parents and guardians of the pupils studying in the Board High School, Nannilam (Tanjore district), was sent to the President, District Board, Tanjore, with a request to start a Hindi class in the above school ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a statement was made in the mahazar referred to in (a) to the effect that the parents and guardians themselves would meet the expenditure thereon and that the District Board need not pay anything for giving effect to the proposal ;

(c) whether the President, District Board, called for the opinion of the Headmaster of the High School and also the pupils on the subject matter of the petition (mahazar) ;

(d) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, the reply received by the President ;

(e) whether it is a fact that a majority of the pupils of the school expressed their ready willingness to learn Hindi when asked by the Headmaster ;

(f) whether the President finally decided not to allow pupils to learn Hindi ;

(g) if the answer to (f) be in the affirmative, whether Government can place on the table a copy of the President’s order prohibiting Hindi learning ;

(h) whether the Government have issued any order or circular to local bodies concerning Hindi learning, and if so, to what effect ;

(i) if the answer to (h) be in the negative, whether the President himself has issued any order to the schools under his supervision forbidding either the learning or the teaching of Hindi ;